

# Europe District joins North Atlantic Division

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By Torrie McAllister  
Europe District Public Affairs

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Europe District, the Corps' forward deployed door-to-the-Corps in the U.S. European Command, joined North Atlantic Division (NAD) on Aug. 4.

"Whether our work supports better living and working conditions for soldiers and airmen, or is focused on supporting broader U.S. regional security objectives, we're excited to be a part of the NAD team," said Europe District Commander Col. Mike Barry.

Formerly a part of the Transatlantic Programs Center, Europe District is headquartered in Wiesbaden, Germany, just twenty minutes from Frankfurt and the largest international airport in Europe. District field offices spread throughout the region from Belgium to Turkey are collocated with customers and central to project sites.

Europe District is the Department of Defense construction agent for the Army and Air Force in Europe and also manages European accounts for many other military customers including EUCOM, the Department of Defense Schools, the Defense Commissary Agency, Department of Defense Medical Facilities, the Army Claims Service, the Defense Logistics Agency and others.

Europe District joins NAD as part of a strategic initiative by Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard, to align for success by further developing the EUCOM relationship. NAD Commander Maj. Gen. Jerry Sinn now oversees all Corps of Engineers activity in the EUCOM area of responsibility.

"We are proud to be the door to the Corps here in Europe and excited to be part of the NAD family," said Barry. "As Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Sinn is opening doors at the highest levels and exploring new work opportunities."

Europe District is developing Support for Others opportunities for the Corps through its Regional Outreach Office. For example, the staff works closely with EUCOM on peacetime engagement infrastructure issues to help prepare the new NATO selects — Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic — for full NATO membership. Europe District has done construction in Belarus and the Ukraine in support of the Defense Special Weapons Agency,

and renovated embassies for the U.S. in many former Soviet Republics.

Recent initiatives include the South East Balkans Environmental Security Assessment, the Central European Petroleum Stock Study, the Ukraine Live Fire Training Area Assessment, the Poland Environmental Cleanup Assessment of Military Installations, and the Supsa Port Assessment on the Black Sea Coast.

"Our sister NAD Districts offer a wealth of civil works expertise we can tap to compliment Europe District's military and international expertise." Barry added "No other nation has a federal engineering organization comparable to the Corps. Everywhere we go people are always interested in what the Corps does and how it operates."

The District plays a central role in helping tap experts from all over the Corps to support contingency operations. Over 200 employees from around the Corps have processed through Europe District to support peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. As U.S. Army Europe's door-to-the-Corps, the District continues to coordinate Corps support to Operation Joint Forge.

When it comes to Public Works support, Europe District may have business tools and practices that can also be useful in the United States.

"Our focus is total life cycle engineering support to Army and Air Force installation commanders," said Barry. "Because they lost engineering staff during downsizing they have turned to the Corps to augment their in-house expertise. That's revolutionized our business practices in ways that may be of interest to others who are engaged in the new Public Works Service center concept."

"Our first partnership venture within NAD has been with Baltimore District where we've provided Col. Berwick with our assessment of the D.C. schools to see if they are good candidates for the Total Maintenance Contracts the Corps provides for Department of Defense schools in Europe," he added. "Our ability to count on each other for advice and support is one of the great strengths of the Corps."

In the environmental arena, Europe District is the Corps' HTRW District in Europe — having been chosen by U.S. Army, Europe to centrally manage all environmental studies, design and remediation work in Europe, Hungary and Bosnia. Since it was launched in 1992, it has averaged \$50 million a year.